

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 01962 01 OF 02 152308Z
ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-07 EUR-08 AF-04 EA-06
NSCE-00 PM-03 SP-02 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 DODE-00
ACDA-10 MCT-01 SSM-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 /068 W
-----108016 152322Z /61

O 152306Z MAY 78

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1372

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 01962

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, MARR, UNSC, PLO, LE, IS, XF

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PAGE 02 USUN N 01962 01 OF 02 152308Z

SUBJECT: UNIFIL: ASSAULT ON UN FORCES IN SOUTH LEBANON

1. SUMMARY: AMB. LEONARD DISCUSSED WITH
KUWAITI AMBASSADOR BISHARA MAY 15 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
PALESTINIANS AND UNIFIL AND DELETERIOUS IMPACT OF
CONTINUATION OF ATTACKS ON UN FORCES IN SOUTH LEBANON.
BISHARA REITERATED EARLIER EXPRESSED VIEW THAT INCIDENTS

ARE A FUNCTION OF IDF'S FAILURE TO WITHDRAW COMPLETELY BUT ADDED THAT INCIDENTS PROVIDED IDF WITH PRETEXT TO REMAIN. HE WILL CONVEY U.S. CONCERN TO PLO AND OTHER ARABS. END SUMMARY.

2. AMBASSADOR LEONARD MET WITH KUWAITI PERM REP BISHARA ON MAY 15 TO STRESS U.S. CONCERN OVER RECENT ASSAULTS ON UN FORCES IN SOUTH LEBANON BY PALESTINIANS AND OTHER ARMED ELEMENTS. LEONARD NOTED THAT THERE HAS TO BE BETTER UNDERSTANDING BY PLO OF ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH UNIFIL. ARAFAT MAKES HELPFUL REMARKS WHEN HE SPEAKS WITH WALDHEIM BUT MAKES CONTRADICTORY AND UNHELPFUL STATEMENTS WHEN HE MEETS WITH ARAB LEADERS, SUCH AS DURING HIS TRIP TO THE GULF IN PAST FEW DAYS. ARAFAT CAN'T HAVE IT BOTH WAYS. IF HE WANTS ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW THEN HE MUST STOP STATING THE PLO DOES NOT ACCEPT THE CEASE-FIRE AND THAT PLO TERRORIST RAIDS WILL CONTINUE AGAINST ISRAEL.

3. FOLLOWING BISHARA'S STANDARD RESPONSE THAT PALESTINIANS CANNOT BE REINED IN AS LONG AS IDF REMAINS IN SOUTH LEBANON, LEONARD POINTED OUT THAT ARAFAT'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND THE RECENT INCIDENTS GREATLY COMPLICATE OUR CONTINUING EFFORTS WITH THE ISRAELIS. LEONARD CLARIFIED THAT THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT THE UN IS NOT IN LEBANON TO DRIVE OUT

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PAGE 03 USUN N 01962 01 OF 02 152308Z

THE PALESTINIANS, BUT ESTABLISHMENT OF ARMED PALESTINIAN STRONGHOLDS IN SOUTH LEBANON IS ANOTHER MATTER. PALESTINIAN FIRING AT UNIFIL TROOPS UNDERMINES ITS POLITICAL BASIS; RECRUITING SOLDIERS FOR UNIFIL WILL BECOME ALL THE MORE DIFFICULT. BISHARA ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ISRAELIS COULD USE ATTACKS ON UNIFIL AS PRETEXT FOR REMAINING IN LEBANON.

4. TURNING TO QUESTION OF LEBANESE AUTHORITY, BISHARA LAMENTED THAT THE "CORRUPT POLITICIANS OF LEBANON" ARE NOT ACCEPTING THEIR SHARE OF THE RESPONSIBILITY. "LET THEM FIRST FORM A GOVERNMENT IN BEIRUT", HE SAID. BISHARA NOTED THAT LIKELIHOOD OF INCIDENTS WOULD DIMINISH IF UN TROOPS WERE BROUGHT UP TO 6,000 STRENGTH IMMEDIATELY. LEONARD REPLIED THAT NEW CONTINGENTS WERE ON THEIR WAY; OTHERS WOULD BE ARRIVING NEXT WEEK.

5. ON PROBLEMS ARISING IN CONNECTION WITH DISARMING OF ARMED ELEMENTS, BISHARA URGED THAT THERE BE NO DISCRIMINATION BY UN FORCES. CHRISTIANS MAY NOT BE

FIRING ON THE UN FORCES BUT THEY PROVOKE THE PALESTINIANS AND SHOULD BE DISARMED. LEONARD REPLIED THAT THERE IS LEVERAGE THAT CAN BE APPLIED TO CHRISTIANS WHO WITH TIME COULD BE SETTLED INTO THEIR VILLAGES, WITH CERTAIN MILITARY LEADERS SUCH AS HADDAD BEING ABSORBED AGAIN INTO LEBANESE ARMY AND EVENTUALLY TRANSFERRED OUT OF THE SOUTH.

6. BISHARA OBSERVED THAT THE ARAB STATES ARE NOT TRYING TO APPLY THE CAIRO/SHTAURA AGREEMENTS IN SOUTH LEBANON. HE THOUGHT THE UNITED NATIONS SHOULD NOT BE DRAGGED INTO THE DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF LEBANON AND SAID

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PAGE 01 USUN N 01962 02 OF 02 152309Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 01962

LIMDIS

HE HAS "CLARIFIED" THIS POINT WITH PLO OBSERVOR
TERZI.

7. RETURNING TO THE DANGER OF FURTHER ATTACKS ON
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PAGE 02 USUN N 01962 02 OF 02 152309Z

UNIFIL TROOPS, LEONARD STRESSED THAT BISHARA MUST ASK
HIS GOVERNMENT, AND ALSO ASK OTHER ARAB AMBASSADORS
HERE TO MAKE SIMILAR REQUESTS TO THEIR CAPITALS, TO DEAL
DIRECTLY WITH ARAFAT. BISHARA SAID HE WOULD
FOLLOW THROUGH; HE WOULD CONVEY U.S. CONCERN. BISHARA
ADDED THAT THE PALESTINIANS IN SOUTH LEBANON
CLEARLY DO NOT PERCEIVE THE INTERNATIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF
THEIR ACTS. HE SAID HE WOULD SPEAK WITH THE PLO ON
THESE POINTS. MCHENRY

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